(c) whether a National inventory of art works is being thought of to be maintained by Lalit Kala Akademi in collaboration with galleries and Artists?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The private galleries and their activities are not under the control of this Ministry. The offences of keeping "fakes" of art works are punishable under different sections of the Indian Penal Code.

(c) No, Sir.

Renovation of monuments

754. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the survey conducted by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), nearly sixty thousand monuments across the country are at the nature's mercy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the same;

(d) the corrective measures taken by Government for renovating these monuments and amount estimated to be spent thereon; and

(e) the time by which such monuments are proposed to be renovated?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) As per the information available from Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) the figure of 60,000 monuments is an estimate based in available literature. INTACH has a catalogue of about 30,000 monuments, largely unprotected.

(d) and (e) No central legislation currently exists for conservation and protection of unprotected heritage. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) takes care of 3675 monuments and sites that have been declared as of national importance under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Besides, the ASI has a scheme for financial assistance for preservation of monuments less than 100 years old. Various State Governments also protect monuments under their respective legislations.

Ancient scriptures and literatures

†755.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Vedas, Upanishadas, Hindi and Urdu Ramayanas, Buddhist, Jaina and Islamic philosophies, memoirs of ancient and modern foreign travellers, and Indian travellers in other countries under National Mission to preserve ancient handwritten scriptures and literatures; and

(b) the number of people benefited from it during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The National Mission for Manuscripts in the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts has conducted survey in 17 States till

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.